PA-FBI

JL- Re relevance of records in 78-0322 in other cases EW 7/7/78

In writing you in haste about this and about the two records I sent you I did not spell out all that appears clear as I should have because you may not think of what I did.

Those 40 feet of index cards do provide a means of compliance with subject requests. Aside from the relevance of similar Memphis indices in 1996 what this means is that the representations to Gesell were untruthful.

It also means that Dallas did not consult these indices and other ercords in response to my PA request.

The records I sent you contain a reference to a file on books on the subject. So who wrote more books?

Questions are immediately raised relating to 226, withholdings to begin with and under discovery and their refusal to search the records of the main repository.

It is not only the cost of copying 40 linear feet of cards about which they will scream when we get to that point. They'll be unhappy about what the cards dicslose.

My belief is that those cards hold entries relating to other than the "main" files, on the assassination, the Oswalds, the HC and Ruby.

This is to say that they should pinpoint all the major withholdings except possibly policy stuff at FBIHQ. I think there should be a fairly good chance that they'll hold the key to the ghost closet if not being a smoking gun. Or as Colby put it, to the family jewels.

As of now my instinct is to say nothing about this and in time and in person to raise it with Shea. (He is still talking about coming up with his sons.)

I think there is no doubt but that this is within my request. But I also think that this entire matter can be important to him.

He has told me that Bell calls him "the priest" because in a town not noted for its morality or ethics on the few (I think four) occasions on which he went to Bell he camd accross like a preacher.

There are many broad aspects I've not taken time to explore. For example, the enormous waste of time and money in so many FOIA cases and so many reviews limited to FBIHQ files when the real records were not in FBIHQ.(And thus we have a chance of blasting that one forever.)And the enormous success in not complying by this means. As I said, Open America! an appropriate pun.

This is an important matter we should try to think through.